

## ADMINISTRATION ADMITS ENERGY TAXES WILL COST JOBS

Oklahoma Congressman Ernest Istook, (R-5th District), wants to know how many jobs would be lost if the Administration's proposed energy tax on British Thermal Units (BTU) becomes reality. As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, Istook today questioned U.S. Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen at a hearing about the controversial tax and its consequences.

Under questioning Secretary Bentsen claims the BTU tax would create more jobs than it would cost, but admits there would be job loss. Istook extracted a promise from Bentsen to provide the estimated number of jobs lost because of the tax.

"Energy states like Oklahoma would probably be on the losing end of the BTU tax," said Istook.

"It's just another reason the tax is a bad idea. Experts, think tanks, and even Nobel Prize Winning Economists say new and increased taxes only hurt the economy and stifle investments."

Bentsen testified at the hearing that the costs of administering the tax have not even been calculated, and likely would not be until *after* the legislation to create the tax is considered.

"That's outrageous," Istook said, "when the federal government won't even tell taxpayers how much it will cost them to have money taken from their pockets."